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The history of summer schools for migrant children in New Jersey is briefly presented. During 16 years of operation, the schools have been conducted for over 2000 children. Special services include care of pupils from two to fifteen years of age, hot lunches, dental care, health services, and a nurse on duty at all times. All teachers, fully certified, are assisted by college students.

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NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Newsletter

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION BUILDING TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

VOLUME 9, NO. 1 SEPTEMBER, 1963

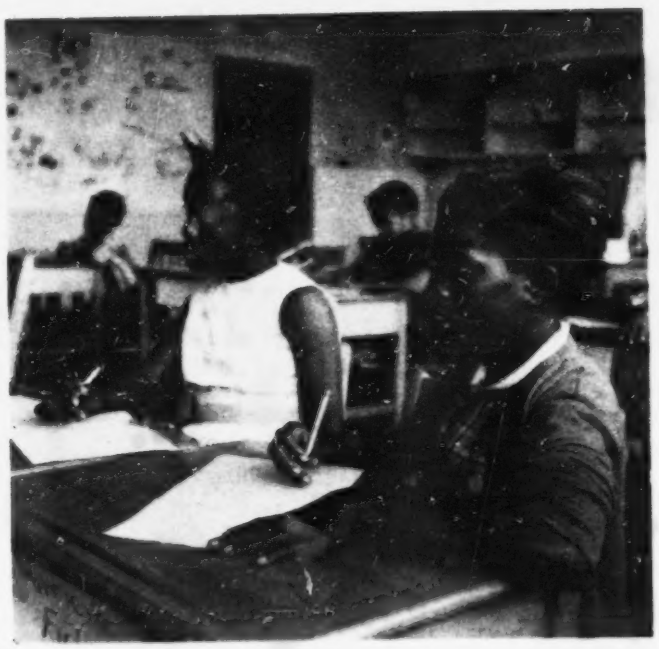
ED002663

SCHOOLS FOR MIGRANT CHILDREN

During this past summer three hundred and forty children of southern and Puerto Rican migrant farm laborers were enrolled in four special schools operated for five weeks in July and August by the State Department of Education.

Although some of these pupils were of pre-school age, there were many aged seven or older who had never attended school before. Their summer experience has added a new dimension to their lives that, it is hoped, will encourage them and their parents to seek out future educational experience whenever the opportunity arises.

Maggie Mae Harris and Cathy Ridley pause for a short rest during their recreation period at Cedarville school.



Constance Ridley and Patricia Ann Fuller do an arithmetic exercise in Mr. Ralph H. Ransom's class at the Cedarville school.

A Recent Development

Although migrant laborers have been following for more than 40 years the seasonal harvest trails criss-crossing New Jersey, the migrant school program for the children of these workers is a comparatively recent development.

An experimental program with a child care center was carried out in 1946, and the first summer school for migrant children in New Jersey was conducted in Freehold in 1947, under the joint sponsorship of the Bureau of Migrant Labor and the Department of Education. Sixty-eight children were enrolled that summer. Since that time there have been from one to four migrant schools in operation in Central and Southern New Jersey every year except 1950, when no funds were appropriated.

During these 16 years in which schools have been conducted for migrant children, a total of more than 2,000 youngsters have benefited from their five weeks of summer school experience.

ED002663

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
Office of Education

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NEWSLETTER

Published by the New Jersey Department of Education, 225 West State Street, Trenton 25, New Jersey, as a report of State educational activities.

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EDUCATION EDITOR
DR. HUGH W. MCLAUGHLIN

Scenes from 1963 Migrant Schools

Tiny Zelia Lopez has her teeth cleaned by Dr. Thomas Evans in the temporary dental office.

Evelyn Bates, Glassboro State College senior, helps Jesus Cruz and Aida Colon with picture identifications at Woodstown.

Growing Federal Concern

Hearings before the Congressional Subcommittee on Migratory Labor in April 1961 found that "The children of migrant agricultural workers constitute the most educationally deprived group of children in our Nation. Despite increasing efforts by State and local school officials, and others, to remedy the situation, the vast majority of these children never attain the bare minimum of education to participate effectively in our society."

In May of 1962 the Department of Education, still working in close cooperation with the Departments of Health and Labor, took over sole responsibility for the operation of New Jersey's migrant schools. Thomas Bogia was appointed director of the program.

Special Services

Ages of the migrant school pupils range from two to fifteen, with the largest numbers in the four to eight group. Nursery facilities are provided for the pre-school children, because in most cases if they had to remain at home their older, school age brothers and sisters would also have to stay home to care for them while both parents worked in the fields.

Most of the youngsters are one year or more below grade level, and reading deficiencies are common. Language difficulties are also frequently found. In 1962 there were 30 pupils at the Woodstown school who could speak no English, but they were well provided for by a teacher who was a native Puerto Rican and a graduate of the University of Puerto Rico.

Milk and cookies are served during the morning session, and a Type A hot lunch is provided in the school cafeteria at noon. A school nurse is on duty at all times. She weighs and measures all the pupils, conducts tests for vision and hearing and assists the visiting doctor in making medical examinations and referrals for needed treatment.

Through the services of the Department of Health, dental examinations are made of all pupils, and fillings and extractions are provided if needed. If a dental or medical clinic cannot be established within the school, a portable unit is operated outside to serve the children's needs. A complete health record card for each pupil is filled out and given to the pupil, together with other available data, when the school closes in August.

The younger children are provided for in a day-care program including story-telling, film strips, movies, art and naps. The older pupils receive help in reading, composition, arithmetic, and vocabulary; they also enjoy song sessions, arts and crafts and supervised recreation. All the teachers are fully certified. Students from the State Colleges assist in the care and supervision of the younger children.

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Top –
Mrs. Helen Burrell helps seven year old Gilberto Castro with his reading in Edwardstown school.

Mrs. Maxine Morris encourages Mary Jane Castro, a seven year old Puerto Rican, with her reading.

Center –
Mrs. Florence Ewan helps Efraim Roche figure out the components of eight, using wooden sticks.

Bevelyn West, aged 4, naps to soft music on a mat in Mrs. Eva Davis' nursery class in Cedarville.

Left–
Barbara Hook enjoying her Type A lunch in the Cedarville cafeteria, as Principal Gino Baruffi smiles happily in the background.

ROSTER OF PERSONNEL AT NEW JERSEY MIGRANT SCHOOLS

Summer, 1963

WOODSTOWN SCHOOL

Principal – Sherwood Wilson

Teachers – Rosa Davila
Maxine Morris
Frank Eyerman
Helen Burrell
Ella Richman

Student Assistants – Patricia Flowers
Evelyn Bates

School Nurses – Esther Rhodes,
Sarah Dougherty

CEDARVILLE SCHOOL

Principal – Gino Baruffi

Teachers – Ralph Ransom
Florence Ewan
Eva Davis
Marietta Webster

Student Assistants – Annette Vannini
Frances Wright

School Nurse – Eleanor Groff

DEERFIELD SCHOOL

Principal – Joseph Pekish

Teachers – Fanny Nicosia
Monna Cassabone
Margaret Garrison
Audry Giles

Student Assistants – Barbara Kulig
Marsha Rizzo

School Nurse – Bertha Askerman

CRANBURY SCHOOL

Principal – Chrystine Shack

Teachers – Daisy Morgan
Elsie Netter
Carl Jaekel
Pearl Hickerson

Student Assistants – Judith Bayard
Senora Taliferro

School Nurse – Georgia Lee Johnson

Opportunities Available in NROTC

During the 1964-63 school year approximately 2,000 high school graduates will be selected to receive their college educations as midshipmen in the Regular Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps. Those who are chosen will enter one of 52 colleges and universities throughout the United States in the fall of 1964. The purpose of the NROTC Program is to train and educate young men for careers as commissioned officers in the United States Navy and Marine corps.

NEWSLETTER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2019
225 WEST STATE STREET
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, 08625